

have all three occur at the same time simply strains the imagination. Yet the Japanese Government and the Japanese people responded to these events with their characteristic resilience, both in the immediate aftermath when local first responders and Japan's Self-Defense Forces responded so heroically in the face of almost unimaginable destruction and today in rebuilding shattered lives and communities by seeking new opportunities for economic growth and innovation, including through new green energy initiatives.

And if there is a silver lining to the tragic events of 3/11, it is that the U.S.-Japan alliance once more proved its own strength and vitality, demonstrating the deep bonds of friendship and affection that tie our two nations together. Together, we launched the largest joint military operation in our history, with more than 20,000 Americans supporting the Japan Self-Defense Forces in Operation Tomodachi. The Department of Defense alone provided 24,000 personnel, 190 aircraft, and 24 Navy ships to assist with humanitarian and disaster relief operations. To this day, our country's joint efforts continue through public-private partnerships for reconstruction and through the TOMODACHI initiative. This program, spearheaded by our Ambassador to Japan—and my good friend—John Roos, is focused on partnerships and programs to empower Japan's next generation and to strengthen ties between Americans and Japanese.

Madam President, nations and relationships between nations often display their truest colors during times of stress, challenge, and tragedy. As we look back at the events of a year ago and pause in remembrance of those who lost their lives, let's also give thanks for the strength, health, and vitality of the partnership between the United States and Japan.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

#### TRIBUTE TO DOUG NELSON

• Mr. KOHL. Madam President, I wish today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Doug Nelson on his retirement as President and CEO of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, ARCW. I am honored to have the opportunity to congratulate him on his extraordinary career and all that he has done to fight against AIDS. Under his leadership, Doug has helped ARCW provide support and care to countless individuals affected by HIV or AIDS. He has also brought awareness and advocacy to the forefront of the public sector and private philanthropy.

The AIDS epidemic remains one of the leading public health threats facing our Nation and the world today. When I was first elected to the U.S. Senate, Doug took the helm as president and CEO of ARCW. Since then, I have looked to Doug for his suggestions, insight and wisdom on how we can work

together to fight this disease, while providing assistance to those who have been diagnosed with AIDS or infected with HIV. I am proud to have been a cosponsor of the Ryan White Care Act in 1990, as well as its reauthorization, which has provided millions of dollars for the State of Wisconsin's AIDS drug reimbursement program. It is also why I fought hard in the Senate to ensure that the Ryan White Extension Act of 2009 would continue to provide these services to those in need.

Doug is a true agent of change. When he assumed his position as the second executive director, ARCW was among one of only a few small social service organizations committed to providing health care and support to individuals infected with HIV. Doug has played an integral role growing ARCW to become Wisconsin's largest provider of a broad range of medical, dental and mental health services for people living with HIV. Under his leadership, the ARCW Medical Center and pharmacy have provided thousands of individuals living with HIV and AIDS with the high quality medical care and support they need.

Over the last 24 years, Doug Nelson and I have worked in our respective roles and together to fight an historic epidemic. It is through his years of leadership that I am proud to say our State has provided high-quality care and support to those who are affected by this disease. In his retirement, Doug will not only leave a legacy of remarkable achievement at ARCW, but an unyielding hope for a brighter future. I want to take this opportunity to formally recognize Doug's many years of remarkable service and, on behalf of the people of Wisconsin, offer him the sincere thanks and appreciation he so deeply deserves. •

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 3606. An act to increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies.

S. 2186. A bill to amend the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to prohibit the Attorney General from administering or en-

forcing certain accessibility regulations relating to pools at public accommodations or provided by public entities.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Report to accompany S. 1925, a bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (Rept. No. 112-153).

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2183. A bill to provide funding for the Fugitive Extradition and Apprehension Trust Fund; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts):

S. 2184. A bill to provide exclusive funding to support fisheries and the communities that rely upon them, to clear unnecessary regulatory burdens and streamline Federal fisheries management, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 2185. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to award grants on a competitive basis to public and private entities to provide qualified sexual risk avoidance education to youth and their parents; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DEMINT (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2186. A bill to amend the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to prohibit the Attorney General from administering or enforcing certain accessibility regulations relating to pools at public accommodations or provided by public entities; read the first time.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 2187. A bill to remove the sunset date for amendments to the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. CASEY, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. Res. 394. A resolution commemorating the 150th anniversary of Italian Unification and the beginning of warm and abiding relations between the people of the United States and Italy; considered and agreed to.